

Standardization

Army Standardization Policy

**Headquarters
Department of the Army
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Unclassified

SUMMARY of CHANGE

AR 34-4

Army Standardization Policy

This is a transitional reprint of this publication which places it in the new UPDATE format. Any previously published permanent numbered changes have been incorporated into the text.

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By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

JOHN A. WICKHAM, JR.
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Official:

ROBERT M. JOYCE
Major General, United States Army
The Adjutant General

History. This UPDATE issue is a reprint of the original form of this regulation that was published on 15 March 1984. Since that time,

no changes have been issued to amend the original.

Summary. This regulation establishes US Army policy and responsibilities for the development and implementation of functional standardization programs in support of Army-wide standardization.

Applicability. This regulation applies to the Active Army, the Army National Guard, and the US Army Reserve.

Proponent and exception authority. Not applicable

Impact on New Manning System. This regulation does not contain information that affects the New Manning System.

Army management control process.
Supplementation. Supplementation of this

regulation is prohibited without prior approval from HQDA (DAMO-TRF), WASH DC 20310.

Interim changes. Interim changes to this regulation are not official unless they are authenticated by The Adjutant General. Users will destroy interim changes on their expiration dates unless sooner superseded or rescinded.

Suggested Improvements. The proponent agency of this regulation is the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans. Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) directly to HQDA (DAMO-TRF), WASH DC 20310.

Distribution. Active Army, ARNG, USAR—B.

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1. Purpose

This regulation prescribes responsibilities and policies for implementing standardization programs. Standardization efforts are directed toward procedures, organizations, training, and operations.

2. References

Related publications are listed in appendix A.

3. Explanation of abbreviations and terms

a. Abbreviations.

- (1) CG—commanding general.
- (2) DARCOM—US Army Materiel Development and Readiness Command.
- (3) DCSOPS—Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans.
- (4) MACOM—major Army command.
- (5) SOP—standard operating procedure.
- (6) STANAG—standardization agreement.
- (7) TIG—The Inspector General.
- (8) TRADOC—US Army Training and Doctrine Command.

b. Terms.

(1) *Integrating center.* The three US Army Training and Doctrine Command integrating centers include the US Army Combined Arms Center, Ft Leavenworth, KS; the US Army Soldier Support Center, Ft Benjamin Harrison, IN; and the US Army Logistics Center, Ft Lee, VA.

(2) *Standardization.* The management principle which fosters the development and sustainment of a high state of proficiency and readiness among soldiers and units throughout an organization. Standardization is accomplished through the universal application of uniform practices and procedures.

4. Responsibilities

a. *Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans (DCSOPS).* The DCSOPS will—

(1) Serve as the Department of the Army proponent for Army standardization policy.

(2) Serve as the functional proponent for training standardization and standardization in other functional areas.

b. *Heads of other Army Staff agencies.* These individuals will serve as functional proponents for standardization within their respective functional areas.

c. *The Inspector General (TIG).* TIG will designate Army standardization policy compliance as a standard item for inspection.

d. *Commanding General, US Army Training and Doctrine Command (CG, TRADOC).* The CG, TRADOC will—

(1) Implement Army standardization policy within TRADOC.

(2) Systematically review all training and doctrinal literature. This review will insure that publications are timely, authoritative, and technically and tactically accurate. It will also insure that publications do not duplicate each other.

(3) Establish a system that rapidly captures, evaluates, and disseminates field generated doctrinal initiatives.

(4) Coordinate with major Army command (MACOM) commanders to conduct standardization assistance visits. These visits will be in conjunction with branch training team visits.

(5) Resolve, at the lowest organizational level possible, problems found during the standardization portion of branch training team visits. Coordinate unresolved standardization issues directly with affected MACOMs or HQDA (DAMO-TRF) as appropriate.

(6) Incorporate standardization concepts into institutional training programs and related extension training materials.

(7) Insure that branch proponents and integrating centers coordinate standardization issues as appropriate.

(8) Establish an integration and standardization program within the TRADOC integrating centers. This will insure that standardization issues are coordinated at commands brigade size and larger and at organizations that develop policy.

e. *Commanding General, US Army Materiel Development and Readiness Command (CG, DARCOM).* The CG, DARCOM will—

(1) Implement Army standardization policy within the command.

(2) Initiate a systematic review of all equipment publications and related documents. This review must insure that fielded publications are authoritative, understandable, technically accurate, and do not duplicate other publications.

(3) Insure that technical documentation for developing systems supports standardization policy.

(4) Coordinate the development of standardized maintenance drills and procedures with the appropriate TRADOC branch proponents.

f. *Other MACOM commanders.* Commanders of other MACOMs will—

(1) Implement Army standardization policy within their respective commands.

(2) Coordinate directly with integrating centers and branch proponents on standardization initiatives and proposals.

(3) Review and comment on standardization proposals initiated by integrating centers and branch proponents.

(4) Designate compliance with Army standardization policy as a special interest item for MACOM inspector generals.

(5) Actively support proponent school branch training teams and integrating center integration and standardization team visits.

(6) Encourage subordinate units to initiate and maintain contact with appropriate integrating centers and branch proponents.

g. *School commandants.* School commandants will act as branch proponents for their respective functional branches. They will be the proponent for standardization matters applicable to their branch; this applies except where proponent responsibility for a function is specifically reserved to another agency by Army regulation.

5. Objectives of standardization

The objectives of standardization are as follows:

a. Improvement and sustainment of proficiency and readiness among soldiers and units throughout the Army. This will be accomplished by universal application of approved practices and procedures.

b. Reduction of the adverse effects of personnel turbulence (such as retraining) following reassignment of soldiers. This will be accomplished by eliminating different methods of performing the same tasks or procedures at the new assignment.

c. Elimination of local modification to approved standardized practices and procedures.

6. Policy

a. Standardization policy applies Army-wide. It involves all of the functional branches and all units and operating agencies.

b. Standardization must become an integral part of the way the Army operates.

c. Standardization is not an end in itself. Standardization will be considered whenever operational, tactical, training, logistical, or administrative programs or procedures are developed or changed.

d. Standardization will be set up at the highest possible level to achieve the greatest benefit without stifling initiative.

e. Enforcement and evaluation mechanisms for standardization initiatives must be clearly defined. Appropriate authority must be given to those responsible for enforcement and evaluation mechanisms.

f. New standardization initiatives will be coordinated to insure quality control and avoid duplication.

g. Approved Army publications such as Army regulations, field manuals, and technical manuals are the authorities upon which standardization is based.

h. Standardization will be attained by—

(1) Standardizing the procedures used by soldiers and units to operate, maintain, and support major weapon and equipment systems.

(2) Identifying those basic tasks that will be performed in the same manner and to the same standard in like units throughout the Army.

i. Applicable standardized practices and procedures will be developed by functional proponents. The practices and procedures will be published in appropriate field and technical manuals.

j. Development of coordinated standardization policy will be a function of the proponent.

7. Implementing standardization programs and policies

a. Standardization will be implemented in all Active and Reserve Component units.

b. Army Staff agencies will develop broad policies to guide the selection of functions that should be standardized. These policies will guide the development and implementation of standardized practices and procedures. Resulting programs and policies will be published in Army-wide publications dealing with standardization. Applicable portions of standardization agreements (STANAGS) and similar international agreements to which the United States is a party will be incorporated into appropriate standardization programs and policies.

c. At commands brigade size and larger and organizations that develop policy, standardization will be implemented through—

- (1) Appropriate implementation policies.
- (2) Supporting programs.
- (3) Standard operating procedures (SOPs).

d. At commands battalion size and smaller and organizations that carry out policy, standardization will be implemented through—

- (1) Standardized drills.
- (2) Standardized maintenance procedures.
- (3) Standardized gunnery proficiency procedures.
- (4) The development of SOPs and programs which require the uniform application of standardized practices and procedures.

e. As a minimum, all standardization initiatives or programs will include—

- (1) A clear description of the benefits to be gained by standardizing.
- (2) Clear objectives to be achieved.
- (3) The procedures or actions to be standardized spelled out in an authoritative publication.
- (4) A specific plan for implementation and sustainment.
- (5) An effective procedure for enforcement.
- (6) Clearly delineated responsibilities.

Appendix A References

Section I Required Publications

This section contains no entries.

Section II Related Publications

A related publication is merely a source of additional information. The user does not have to read it to understand this regulation.

AR 10-5
Department of the Army

AR 10-6
Branches of the Army

AR 10-11
U.S. Army Materiel Development and Readiness Command

AR 10-13
U.S. Army Communications Command

AR 10-23
U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command

AR 10-36
U.S. Army Standardization Groups

AR 10-41
U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command

AR 10-42
U.S. Army Forces Command

AR 10-43
U.S. Army Health Services Command

AR 10-49
U.S. Army Western Command

AR 10-53
(C) U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command (U)

AR 34-1
U.S. Army Participation in International Military Rationalization, Standardization, and Interoperability (RSI) Programs

AR 34-2
Rationalization, Standardization, and Interoperability Policy

AR 34-3
Battlefield Automated Systems Interoperability Management

AR 50-5
Nuclear Surety

AR 95-1
Army Aviation: General Provisions and Flight Regulations

AR 310-49
The Army Authorization Documents System (TAADS)

AR 350-1
Army Training

**Section III
Prescribed Forms**
This section contain no entries.

**Section IV
Referenced Forms**
This section contain no entries.

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